

An overwhelming majority of prisoners are indigent, as are their families. The families are already having to face repercussions of a loved one's incarceration, and they do not need the added burden of heavy expenditures on phone calls from those places of incarceration. This just acts as punishment for the families, who have not committed any wrongdoing.

Those who are incarcerated need to stay in touch with their families and friends as part of the rehabilitation process. Without strong support upon release, these folks will inevitably end up back in prison. If they are unable to remain in close contact with family and friends during their incarceration, then obviously any ties they once had will deteriorate and eventually disappear altogether.

I would also note the effect that the loss of a parent plays in a child's life. Children without fathers or mothers frequently exhibit emotional or developmental problems. Sometimes these problems can lead them into creating situations where they too will end up in prison.